REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating claims 1 and 4-8 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully notes that there were items in the Office Response filed April 12, 2005, that have not yet been addressed by the Examiner. Specifically, Applicant respectfully requested that the initialed PTO Form-1449 from the IDS filed on June 20, 2003, be returned. Applicant further requested that if this IDS has not been considered, appropriate consideration thereof is respectfully requested. Further, Applicant respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of priority documents submitted on June 20, 2003. The present application is a continuation of PCT application PCT/JP01/11623 filed on December 28, 2001, which claims priority to Japanese Patent application JP 2000-401987 filed on December 28, 2000.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-21 were pending in the present application. By way of the reply dated April 12, 2005, claims 9-21 were withdrawn from consideration. By way of this reply, claims 9-21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. These amendments are fully supported by, for example, the original claims. No new matter has been added. Also, Applicant believes that these amendments are believed to require no further prior art search. Accordingly, entry and favorable consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

Objection(s)

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to for informalities. Specifically, claim 2 is objected to for being unclear as to what "means for changing a signal level" is and what it comprises, and claim 3 is objected to for being unclear as to what "means for changing a frequency of said overlaid signal" is and what it comprises. Also, claims 2 and 3 are objected to because of lack of the antecedent basis. For the reasons set forth below, these objections are respectfully traversed.

The "means for changing a signal level" and the "means for changing a frequency of said overlaid signal" are certain devices or circuits those who have ordinary skill in the art would recognize and understand. *See, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,654,916 (hereinafter the "'916 Patent") filed on September 10, 1999. The '916 Patent discloses a waveform generator that can generate various output signals in different current values. *See* Figs 1 and 2. Also, the '916 Patent discloses a waveform generator that can generate various output signals in different pulse widths. *See* Figs. 13-15. Because the elements "means for changing a signal level" and "means for changing a frequency of said overlaid signal" are known by those of ordinary skill in the art, the inclusion of the "means for changing a signal level" and the "means for changing a frequency of said overlaid signal" recited in the claims is not unclear.

Accordingly, one skilled in the art will appreciate the actual circuitry needed to achieve these functions.

Further, claims 2 and 3 have been amended in this reply to simply remove the term "unit" from the claims in view of this objection. Thus, this objection is now moot.

In view of above, withdrawal of these objections to claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to for not showing every feature recited in the claims. Specifically, the features of "means for changing a signal level" as recited in claim 2, "means for changing a frequency of said overlaid signal" as recited in claim 3, and "said electronic device comprises a plurality of semiconductor devices" as recited in claim 8 are referenced. For the reasons set forth below, this objection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed with reference to Fig. 1, the power source unit 20 may include a power source 24 for generating a source voltage and a random waveform generating unit 22 for generating overlaid signals. The overlaid signals may be overlaid on the source voltage by a summing unit. The power source unit 20 includes a means for changing the signal level of the overlaid signals. Additionally, the power source unit may include a means for changing a frequency of the overlaid signals. *See* page 8, lines 7-14 of the specification. As discussed above, one skilled in the art will appreciate the actual circuitry needed to achieve changing the level and/or frequency of a signal, which are inherent functions of the power source unit 20 shown in Fig. 1. It is clear to one skilled in the art that a power source unit 20 could provide means for changing a signal level or a frequency of overlaid signals.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the above feature recited in claim 8 is shown in the drawings. As discussed with reference to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 1 of the present application, the electronic device 12 to be

tested may include a digital circuit with a plurality of semiconductor devices or a digital/analog combined circuit. *See* page 7, lines 7-9 of the specification. In addition, an example of the electronic device 12 including a plurality of semiconductor devices is shown in Figs. 2A-2D. Specifically, Fig. 2A shows a part of a digital circuit including two semiconductor devices, *i.e.,* two NAND circuits. It is clear that these logic circuits correspond to semiconductor devices in the present application. *See* page 24, lines 2-10 of the specification and Fig. 10. Thus, the above feature recited in claim 8 is shown in the drawings.

In view of above, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

These above amendments and remarks are believed to require no further prior art search or, at least, simplify issues for appeal. Accordingly, entry and favorable consideration is respectfully requested. Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/113001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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